

# Before the Bell

*An Ameriprise Investment Research Group Publication*April 26, 2024

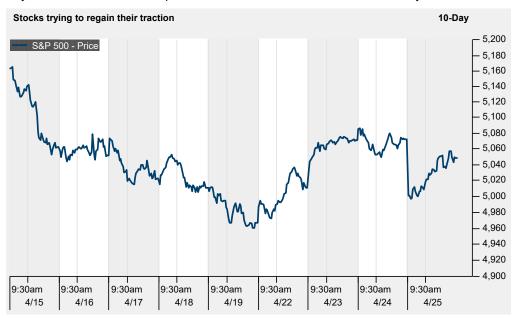
# Starting the Day

- U.S. futures are pointing to a higher open.
- European markets are trading higher at midday.
- · Asian markets ended mixed.
- · Microsoft and Alphabet beat profit expectations.
- Stocks are on pace to snap multi-week losing streaks.
- 10-year Treasury yield at 4.68%.
- West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil is trading at \$84.16.
- Gold is trading at \$2,358.90

# Market Perspectives Anthony Saglimbene, Chief Market Strategist

Markets continue to recalibrate expectations. Early momentum in the week, which helped stocks claw back some of their losses last week, could help stocks kick a three-week losing streak. However, a disappointing outlook from Meta Platforms on Wednesday night and a <u>big</u> miss on Q1 GDP before markets opened on Thursday sent stocks lower yesterday. The S&P 500 Index lost 0.5% on Thursday, while the NASDAQ Composite and Russell 2000 Index finished lower by 0.6% and 0.7%,

respectively. However. after the close Thursday, Microsoft and Alphabet delivered strong results and outlooks that sent their stock prices higher in the premarket this morning. Microsoft beat Q1 elevated profit expectations with revenue growth accelerating Azure by +31% y/y in Q1. Al helped boost Azure's profitability, and Microsoft's overall profit guidance was positive. Similarly, Alphabet reported a big Q1 profit beat, saw growth accelerate Search/YouTube, and Al



increased its contribution to Cloud performance. Along with solid margins, the initiation of its first dividend, and a healthy outlook, investors liked what they heard from Alphabet overnight. Notably, investors are breathing a sigh of relief that this week's Big Tech earnings reports largely didn't change the narrative around AI or the outlook for profit growth from these Index heavyweights. As stocks open the last trading day of the week, the S&P 500 is higher by +1.6% week-to-date, and the NASDAQ is higher by more than +2.0%. With stocks looking to open higher this morning, the S&P 500 is on pace to snap a three-week losing streak, while the NASDAQ could break a five-week losing streak.

NOTE: FOR IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONFLICTS, PLEASE SEE THE DISCLOSURE PAGES AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Turning to the economy, unfortunately, the stronger-than-expected growth in the first quarter that economists and the Fed's own GDPNOW model forecast didn't come to pass as scripted, at least in the first estimate. U.S. GDP expanded by +1.6% in the first quarter, much weaker than the *FactSet* estimate of +2.2% and Q4's pace of +3.4%. While inventory destocking played a role in weaker GDP growth in the first quarter, consumer spending on services <u>increased</u>, while the Q1 GDP Chain Price came in at a surprising +3.1% q/q, warmer than the +2.7% expected and much hotter than the +1.6% pace seen in Q4.

So, what's investors' initial take on all this? Growth in the U.S. economy was slower than expected in the first quarter, and at the same time, prices paid for goods and services increased more than expected. And even though consumers still spent at a healthy clip in the first quarter, a possible stagflation environment (i.e., growth slowing while inflation remains elevated) adds a new wrinkle into the evolving economic narrative for this year. Following this week's updates on the economy (and before this morning's PCE report), market odds are pointing to little chance the Federal Reserve will cut rates in June and a roughly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> chance they cut their fed funds target rate in July. Market odds continue to point to just one or two rate cuts in 2024, which was further supported by incoming data this week.

Bottom line: The environment for stock and bond investors has become more volatile over recent weeks, based on what may prove to be elevated expectations for a soft-landing scenario that was priced for perfection and expected to unfold as scripted. Incoming data on inflation, employment, overall growth, and corporate profit updates this month have challenged the more extreme bullish assessments of the current market/economic environment.

Coming into April, the S&P 500 was trading at some of its most expensive levels on a historical and trailing earnings basis going back to the fall of 2021 and after stocks ripped higher on a pandemic-induced rebound. Even today, and after April's modest reset in stock prices, the Index is trading at nearly 21x this year's full-year earnings per share estimate — roughly 35% above the longer-term trailing average. Over the next few weeks, further looks at corporate profits/outlooks, updates on inflation, and reads on economic activity could have a lot to say on whether the April pullback was the breather stocks needed or an intro into a more traditional correction.

#### U.S. Pre-market Indicators / Overnight International Market Activity

### **United States:**

Here is a quick news rundown to start your morning:

- Stocks are looking at a higher open. Strong profit results/outlooks from Microsoft and Alphabet overnight have stocks on pace to break multi-week losing streaks as the final day of trading this week gets underway. The Fed's preferred inflation gauge, PCE, is out this morning and could help drive early trading direction.
- **Earnings Update:** With roughly 45% of S&P 500 first quarter reports complete, blended earnings per share (EPS) growth is higher by +3.2% year-over-year on revenue growth of +4.0%.

#### **Europe:**

Stocks in the region are trading higher at midday and partly driven by improved sentiment stemming from strong results out of Microsoft and Alphabet yesterday. Anglo American rejected BHP's merger proposal, citing execution risk from splitting off its South African assets in the deal. The European Central Bank's latest consumer expectation survey showed inflation expectations decreased for the sixth consecutive month, adding speculation the central bank could begin to cut rates in June.

#### Asia-Pacific:

The Bank of Japan left interest rate policy unchanged, as expected. Investors focus centered on the central bank's April Outlook report. The report showed an uptick in inflation forecasts, though the growth outlook for this year was reduced to +0.8% from +1.2% previously. In his press conference, BOJ Governor Ueda focused on the rate hike path, yen impacts, and government bond purchases. Notably, there was very little change in each versus his March comments, reiterating future rate hikes would likely be dependent on whether inflation moves higher.

#### **WORLD CAPITAL MARKETS**

Euro (€/\$)

British Pound  $(\underline{\mathfrak{t}}/\$)$ 

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4/26/2024	As of: 8	3:30 AM	ET								
Americas	% chg.	% YTD	Value	Europe (Intra-day)	% chg.	%YTD	Value	Asia/Pacific (Last Night)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
S&P 500	-0.5%	6.3%	5,048.4	DJSTOXX 50 (Europe)	0.8%	11.5%	4,978.4	Nikkei 225 (Japan)	0.8%	14.1%	37,934.8
Dow Jones	-1.0%	1.6%	38,085.8	FTSE 100 (U.K.)	0.4%	6.4%	8,115.0	Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	2.1%	4.1%	17,651.2
NASDAQ Composite	-0.6%	4.2%	15,611.8	DAX Index (Germany)	0.7%	7.8%	18,051.2	Korea Kospi 100	1.1%	0.7%	2,656.3
Russell 2000	-0.7%	-1.9%	1,981.1	CAC 40 (France)	0.4%	6.7%	8,045.3	Singapore STI	-0.2%	2.5%	3,280.1
Brazil Bovespa	-0.1%	-7.1%	124,646	FTSE MIB (Italy)	0.9%	12.8%	34,250.4	Shanghai Comp. (China)	1.2%	3.8%	3,088.6
S&P/TSX Comp. (Canada)	0.1%	5.5%	21,885.4	IBEX 35 (Spain)	1.4%	11.7%	11,133.0	Bombay Sensex (India)	-0.8%	2.2%	73,730.2
Mexico IPC	1.1%	-0.2%	57,085.8	MOEX Index (Russia)	0.0%	11.9%	3,441.3	S&P/ASX 200 (Australia)	-1.4%	1.5%	7,575.9
Global	% chg.	% YTD	Value	<b>Developed International</b>	% chg.	%YTD	Value	<b>Emerging International</b>	% chg.	%YTD	Value
MSCI All-Country World Idx	-0.5%	4.6%	755.6	MSCI EAFE	-0.7%	2.6%	2,265.9	MSCI Emerging Mkts	-0.6%	1.2%	1,028.6
Note: International market returns S&P 500 Sectors	s shown on a	local curren	cy basis. The e	equity index data shown above	s is on a <u>t</u> % chg.	otal retur	n basis, inclu Value	commodities			
Communication Services	-4.0%	12.3%	275.2	JPM Alerian MLP Index	-0.3%	11.7%	283.9	Futures & Spot (Intra-day)	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Consumer Discretionary	-0.2%	-0.2%	1,411.9	FTSE NAREIT Comp. TR	-0.6%	-8.5%		CRB Raw Industrials	0.4%	2.6%	557.9
Consumer Staples	-0.3%	6.9%	808.0	DJ US Select Dividend	-0.6%	3.5%	3,107.2	NYMEX WTI Crude (p/bbl.)	1.0%	17.8%	84.4
Energy	0.5%	16.5%	738.9	DJ Global Select Dividend	0.8%	2.2%	223.3	ICE Brent Crude (p/bbl.)	0.9%	16.6%	
Financials	-0.5%	9.2%	680.2	S&P Div. Aristocrats	-0.6%	2.7%	4,387.2				89.8
Health Care	-0.6%	3.1%	1,631.0					NYMEX Nat Gas (mmBtu)	-6.0%	-38.8%	89.8 1.5
Industrials								NYMEX Nat Gas (mmBtu) Spot Gold (troy oz.)	-6.0%	-38.8% 13.6%	
	0.3%	7.9%	1,036.3								1.5
Materials	0.3%	7.9% 4.3%		Bond Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value	Spot Gold (troy oz.)	0.5%	13.6%	1.5 2,343.6
Materials Real Estate			1,036.3	Bond Indices Barclays US Agg. Bond	% chg.	% YTD -3.4%	Value 2,087.6	Spot Gold (troy oz.) Spot Silver (troy oz.)	0.5% 0.5%	13.6% 15.8%	1.5 2,343.6 27.6
	0.7%	4.3%	1,036.3 560.2					Spot Gold (troy oz.) Spot Silver (troy oz.) LME Copper (per ton)	0.5% 0.5% 0.9%	13.6% 15.8% 15.1%	1.5 2,343.6 27.6 9,742.2
Real Estate	0.7%	4.3%	1,036.3 560.2 228.4	Barclays US Agg. Bond	-0.3%	-3.4%	2,087.6	Spot Gold (troy oz.) Spot Silver (troy oz.) LME Copper (per ton) LME Aluminum (per ton)	0.5% 0.5% 0.9% -2.1%	13.6% 15.8% 15.1% 8.2%	1.5 2,343.6 27.6 9,742.2 2,537.4
Real Estate Technology	0.7% -0.5% 0.2%	4.3% -8.4% 6.6%	1,036.3 560.2 228.4 3,612.4	Barclays US Agg. Bond	-0.3%	-3.4%	2,087.6	Spot Gold (troy oz.) Spot Silver (troy oz.) LME Copper (per ton) LME Aluminum (per ton) CBOT Corn (cents p/bushel)	0.5% 0.5% 0.9% -2.1% -0.2%	13.6% 15.8% 15.1% 8.2% -8.7%	1.5 2,343.6 27.6 9,742.2 2,537.4 451.3
Real Estate Technology	0.7% -0.5% 0.2%	4.3% -8.4% 6.6%	1,036.3 560.2 228.4 3,612.4	Barclays US Agg. Bond	-0.3%	-3.4%	2,087.6	Spot Gold (troy oz.) Spot Silver (troy oz.) LME Copper (per ton) LME Aluminum (per ton) CBOT Corn (cents p/bushel)	0.5% 0.5% 0.9% -2.1% -0.2%	13.6% 15.8% 15.1% 8.2% -8.7%	1.5 2,343.6 27.6 9,742.2 2,537.4 451.3

-1.7%

-2.9%

1.07

1.25

Japanese Yen (\$/¥)

Australian Dollar (A\$/\$)

-0.1%

0.0%

#### Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC)

U.S. Equity Sector - Tactical Views										
	S&P 500		GAAC	GAAC		S&P 500		GAAC	GAAC	
	Index	GAAC	<b>Tactical</b>	Recommended		Index	GAAC	<b>Tactical</b>	Recommended	
	Weight	<b>Tactical View</b>	<u>Overlay</u>	<u>Weight</u>		Weight	<b>Tactical View</b>	<b>Overlay</b>	<u>Weight</u>	
Consumer Staples	5.9%	Overweight	2.0%	7.9%	<b>Communication Services</b>	8.9%	Equalweight	-	8.9%	
Information Technology	30.0%	Equalweight	-	30.0%	Energy	3.9%	Equalweight	-	3.9%	
Health Care	12.3%	Equalweight	-	12.3%	Utilities	2.1%	Equalweight	-	2.1%	
Financials	13.1%	Equalweight	-	13.1%	Materials	2.3%	Equalweight	-	2.3%	
Industrials	8.8%	Equalweight	-	8.8%	Real Estate	2.3%	Equalweight	-	2.3%	
As of: March 29, 2024					Consumer Discretionary	10.4%	Underweight	-2.0%	8.4%	

156.84

0.65

-0.8% -10.1%

-4.0%

0.3%

Canadian Dollar (\$/C\$)

Swiss Franc (\$/CHF)

0.0%

0.0%

-3.0%

-7.8%

1.37

0.91

Index weightings represent the respective market capitalization of each sector in the S&P 500 as of 3/21/2024. The GAAC Tactical Overlay, as well as Recommended Tactical Weights, is derived from the Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC). Views are expressed relative to the Index and are provided to represent investment conviction in each region. Tactical Allocations are designed to augment Index returns over a 6-12 month time horizon. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Global Equity Regions - Tactical Views										
MSCI All-Country			GAAC	GAAC		GAAC	GAAC			
	World Index	GAAC	Tactical	Recommended		World Index	GAAC	Tactical	Recommended	
	Weight	<b>Tactical View</b>	<b>Overlay</b>	Weight		Weight	Tactical View	<b>Overlay</b>	Weight	
<b>United States</b>	62.4%	Overweight	2.1%	64.5%	Latin America	1.0%	Equalweight		1.0%	
Europe ex U.K.	13.5%	Overweight	2.0%	15.5%	Asia-Pacific ex Japan	10.3%	Underweight	-3.0%	7.3%	
Japan	5.6%	Overweight	1.0%	6.6%	Canada	2.9%	Underweight	-1.0%	1.9%	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	3.2%	Equalweight		3.2%	Middle East / Africa	1.1%	Underweight	-1.1%	0.0%	
as of: March 29 2024										

Index weightings are based on the regional market capitalizations of the MSCI All-Country World Index as of 03/21/2024. The GAAC Tactical Overlay, as well as the Recommended Tactical Weights, are derived from the Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC). Views are expressed relative to the Index and are provided to represent investment conviction in each region. Tactical Allocations are designed to augment Index returns over a 6-12 month time horizon. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

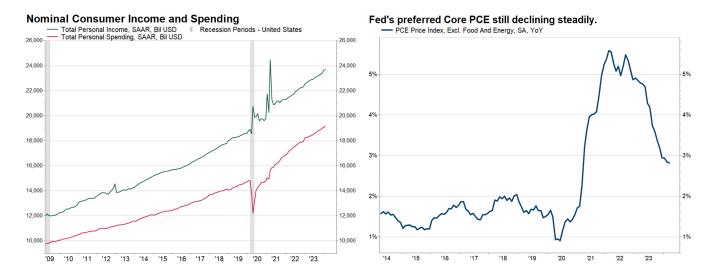
# **Economic News and Views:**

#### Russell T. Price, CFA - Chief Economist

Releases	for Friday	April 26, 2024	All times Eastern. Consensus	estimates via	a Bloomberg	
Time	Period	Release	Consensus Est.	Actual	Prior	Revised to
8:30 AM	MAR	Personal Income	+0.5%	+0.5%	+0.3%	
8:30 AM	MAR	Personal Spending	+0.6%	+0.8%	+0.8%	
8:30 AM	MAR	PCE Deflator (MoM)	+0.3%	+0.3%	+0.3%	
8:30 AM	MAR	Core PCE Deflator (MoM)	+0.3%	+0.3%	+0.3%	
8:30 AM	MAR	PCE Deflator (YoY)	+2.6%	+2.7%	+2.5%	
8:30 AM	MAR	Core PCE Deflator (YoY)	+2.7%	+2.8%	+2.8%	
10:00 AM	Apr. F	U. of M. Consumer Sentime	nt 77.9		77.9	

#### Commentary:

- Consumer income and spending continue to expand at healthy rates. The Fed's preferred inflation measure, the Core PCE rate, however stalled in March as it remained at +2.8% versus the slight 0.1 percentage point decline expected.
- Consumer income and spending continued to grow at strong rates in March. Spending, however, may have grown at a rate that is a bit too strong for the market's near-term liking especially since the PCE inflation measures associated with today's releases remained "hot".
- On the income side, wages and salaries grew at a strong +0.7% for a second straight month leading to a year-over-year (y/y) rate of +5.9%. Total spending was up 5.8% y/y.
- The Savings Rate for the month was a modest 3.2%. Though this number sometimes garners media attention given that it is well below pre-pandemic averages, we do not see it as concerning. We believe there is ample evidence of consumers still having excess savings, thus further drawing down this pool squeezes the saving rate as spending growth remains modestly above total income growth.
- Overall, we continue to see consumers as being in good financial shape and thus in good position to positively support
  economic growth over the intermediate-term at least. Of course, the inflation readings contained in today's reports are
  critical at this stage and, although slower than what was expected just a few months ago, we still see PCE inflation rates
  as likely to further moderate in the months ahead.
- In our view this reflects that consumers still have excess savings built-up from the last few years savings which are able to fuel spending at growth rates better than that of income growth. As these excess savings slowly dwindle, the pace of consumer spending should slow, and the Savings Rate should rebound. Overall, we look for the Savings Rate to eventually get back to its pre-pandemic averages of around 6% to 8%.
- The charts below are sourced from FactSet and HAVE been updated to reflect today's release.



Last Updated: April 18, 2024

Ameriprise Economic Projections											
Forecast:		Full-year Quarterly									
	Actual	Actual	Est.	Est.	Actual	Actual	Actual	Est.	Est.	Est.	Est.
	2022	<u>2023</u>	2024	<u>2025</u>	Q2-2023	Q3-2023	Q4-2023	Q1-2024	Q2-2024	Q3-2024	Q4-2024
Real GDP (annualized)	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%	1.8%	2.1%	4.9%	3.4%	2.3%	2.8%	1.9%	1.6%
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.7%	4.2%	4.2%	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%
CPI (YoY)	8.0%	3.4%	2.3%	2.0%	3.0%	3.7%	3.4%	3.5%	3.3%	2.6%	2.3%
Core PCE (YoY)	5.2%	2.9%	2.1%	1.9%	4.3%	3.6%	2.9%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%

Sources: Historical data via FactSet. Estimates (Est.) via American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.

 $YoY = Year-over-year, Unemployment \ numbers \ are \ period \ ending. \ GDP: Gross \ Domestic \ Product; CPI: Consumer \ Price \ Index \ Price \ Pri$ 

PCE: Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index. Core excludes food and energy.

All estimates other than GDP are period ending.

# Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee Targets and Views

Targets			
	Favorable	Base-Case	Adverse
2024 Year-end Targets:	Scenario	Scenario	Scenario
S&P 500 Index:	5,400	5,200	4,200
10-Year U.S. Treasury Yield:	4.00%	3.50%	3.00%
Fed Funds Target Range:	4.25% to 4.50%	4.50% to 4.75%	3.75% to 4.00%

Estimates (Est.) via American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.

Please see latest Quarterly Capital Market Digest for more information. Last Updated: January 2, 2024

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# Global Asset Allocation Committee Views

#### AMERIPRISE GLOBAL ASSET ALLOCATION COMMITTEE TACTICAL ASSET CLASS VIEWS

2024 Year-end S&P 500 Target: 5,200

2024 Year-End 10-year Treasury Target: 3.50% as of 03/27/2024

_	Overweight	Equalweight	Underweight
Equity	U.S. Large Cap Value     Developed Foreign Equity	<ul> <li>U.S. Large Cap Growth</li> <li>U.S. Mid Cap Value</li> <li>U.S. Mid Cap Growth</li> <li>U.S. Small Cap Value</li> <li>U.S. Small Cap Growth</li> </ul>	Emerging Foreign Equity
S&P 500 Sectors	Consumer Staples	Communication Services Energy Financials Health Care Industrials Information Technology Materials Real Estate Utilities	Consumer Discretionary
Global Equity Regions	<ul><li>United States</li><li>Europe ex U.K.</li><li>Japan</li></ul>	Latin America     United Kingdom	Asia Pacific ex Japan     Middle East/Africa     Canada
Fixed Income	U.S. Government     U.S. Investment Grade Corp.	Developed Foreign Bonds     U.S. High Yield Bonds	Emerging Foreign Bonds     Municipal Bonds
Alternatives		Real Assets	Alternative Strategies
Cash		Cash     Cash Investments	

Note: Our Tactical Allocations are designed to augment a Strategic portfolio over a 6-12-month time horizon. Asset Allocation and diversification do not ensure or guarantee better performance and do not eliminate the risk of investment losses. Investors should note that rising interest rates could have a detrimental effect on bond prices. Please consult with your financial advisor. Cash generally refers to assets, securities and/or products low in risk and highly liquid. For asset allocation purposes, instruments can include Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, money market funds and high quality bonds whose maturities are less than 3 months. Outside of asset allocation purposes, cash investments can also include illiquid cash held in a mutual fund or pledged as collateral for derivatives. You can only access this cash by redeeming the fund using it, subject to fees or time constraints associated with redemptions.

		Rolling	Returns	
Major Market Indices	Q1'24	1₋year	3-years	5-years
Russell 3000® Index (U.S. Equity)	10.02%	29.29%	9.78%	14.34%
MSCI ACWI Ex USA Index – net (Foreign Equity)	4.69%	13.26%	1.94%	5.97%
Bloomberg U.S. Universal Bond Index (Fixed Income)	-0.47%	2.67%	-2.11%	0.69%
Wilshire Liquid Alternative Index (Alternatives)	3.16%	8.25%	1.95%	2.92%
FTSE Three-Month Treasury Bill Index (Cash)	1.37%	5.52%	2.70%	2.07%

Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance. Performance calculations use FactSet data and are as of March 29, 2024

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# The Ameriprise Investment Research Group

With Ameriprise Financial, you can benefit from our dedicated team of experienced investment research and due diligence professionals. Our objective market insight, strategies and guidance are designed to provide you with insight into investment strategies and solutions to help you feel more confident about your financial future. It's the higher level of sophistication and service you've come to expect from Ameriprise.

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translation, geopolitical instability, and deviations in the
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